

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 14739 210944Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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R 210732Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3134
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 14739

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: CH, PINT, PINR
SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL OBSERVATION BY CONGEN OFFICER: TIENTSIN,
NANKING, SHANGHAI

REF: A) HONG KONG 14673 B) HONG KONG 13844 C) PEKING 2603

SUMMARY: DURING TWO WEEKS CONSULTATION TRAVEL IN THE PRC,
HONG KONG CONGEN OFFICER SAW CONTINUING POSTER CRITICISM OF
THE "GANG OF FOUR" AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND WAS PERMITTED TO
TRAVEL THROUGH THE EARTHQUAKE-STRIKEN TIENTSIN AREA. END
SUMMARY.

1. CONGEN OFFICER RETURNING FROM PEKING CONSULTATIONS,
TRAVELING BY RAIL FROM PEKING TO NANKING ON DECEMBER 12, HAD
OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE TIENTSIN AREA. OFFICER NOTED LITTLE
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PAGE 02 HONG K 14739 210944Z

DESTRUCTION FROM THE JULY 28 AND NOVEMBER 15 EARTHQUAKES
EXCEPT FOR SOME LIMITED ROOF DAMAGE TO ONE-STORY HOUSES. WHEN
THE TRAIN STOPPED BRIEFLY AT TIENTSIN'S WEST STATION, OFFICER
OBSERVED THAT ADJACENT STREETS WERE FILLED WITH
TRAFFIC AND TROLLY BUSES WERE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. VERY
FEW TEMPORARY EARTHQUAKES SHELTERS WERE OBSERVED IN THE AREA.

THE TRAIN, HOWEVER, DID NOT PASS THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE CITY WHERE THE WORST DAMAGE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE OCCURRED.

2. NANKING (DECEMBER 13-15): FRESH CARICATURES AND POSTER DENUNCIATIONS OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" ABOUNDED IN THE CITY. ON A VISIT TO NANKING'S LU HSUN MIDDLE SCHOOL, CONGEN OFFICER WAS TOLD THAT THE SCHOOL'S FINE ARTS CLASSES WERE DRAWING LARGE POSTER AND COMPETING WITH OTHER UNITS IN A CITY-WIDE CONTEST. SLIDES OF CARICATURES WERE ALSO SHOWN, TO THE OBVIOUS DELIGHT OF THE AUDIENCE, BEFORE THE SCREENING OF A MOVIE IN A LOCAL THEATER. IN WALKING UNACCOMPANIED THROUGH THE CITY, CONGEN OFFICER ALSO SAW ONE UNSIGNED POSTER ATTACKING THE "ANTI-PARTY SPEECHES" OF ANTI-LIN BIAO/CONFUCIUS EDUCATION ACTIVIST CHANG TIEH-SHENG (REF B), AND AN UNIDENTIFIED LIU CHI-YEH (0491/4949/2814). THE SPEECHES WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE AT 11:30 PM ON SEPTEMBER 9, THE DATE OF MAO'S DEATH, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" AND MAO YUAN-HSIEN IN SHENYANG. THE POSTER ATTACKED CHANG AND LIU AS BEING ANTI-PARTY AND ANTI-CENTER COUNTER-REVOLUTIONAIRES AND CONTAINED OFFENDING EXCERPTS OF THE SPEECHES SUPPORTING THE "GANG OF FOUR" AS THE TRUE REVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSORS TO MAO.

3. TWO OTHER LENGTHY POSTERS OF NOTE WERE ALSO OBSERVED: ONE ATTACKED THE "GANG OF FOUR" FOR SLANDERING CHOU EN-LAI AS EARLY AS 1972 WHEN HIS ILLNESS FIRST BECAME KNOWN AND THE OTHER QUESTIONED THE TRUE POLITICAL COLOR OF CHANG WEN-KU (1728/2429/771), PRESUMABLY A LOCAL OFFICIAL BY THE THEORETICAL GROUP OF THE CHANG FACTORY. CHANG WAS ATTACKED FOR NOT ATTENDING SEVERAL IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL PARTY MEETINGS SINCE NOVEMBER 1975 AND RHETORICALLY ASKED IF HE IS A SUPPORTER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 HONG K 14739 210944Z

THE "GANG OF FOUR". HOWEVER, NO POSTERS WERE OBSERVED ATTACKING NANKING MILITARY REGION COMMANDER TING SHENG, REPORTEDLY UNDER A POLITICAL CLOUD (REF C). CONGEN OFFICER WAS LATER TOLD BY A VISITING AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN THAT HIS NANKING CTS GUIDE HAD TOLD HIM A NEW KIANGSU PARTY FIRST SECRETARY HAD BEEN APPOINTED, BUT THE AUSTRALIAN NEGLECTED TO ASK HIS NAME.

4. SHANGHAI: IN A BRIEF OVERNIGHT STOP (DECEMBER 15-16, REF A) CONGEN OFFICER OBSERVED EXTENSIVE POSTER ACTIVITY CALLING FOR "10,000 DEATHS" TO MA TIEN-SHUI, HUS CHIANG-HSIEN AND WANG HSIU-CHEN-THE FORMER SUPPORTERS OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" IN THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL CCP COMMITTEE.

5. OTHER OBSERVATIONS: ENROUTE TO PEKING ON DECEMBER 4, OFFICER NOTED POSTER ATTACKING LOCAL "GANG OF FOUR" SUPPORTERS IN CANTON, BUT WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN DETAILS. A LARGE CROWD WAS READING THE POSTER AND WHEN CONGEN OFFICER STOPPED TO OBSERVE, HE WAS QUESTIONED BY A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHY HE WAS

INTRESTED IN THE POSTERS. AFTER A POLITE DISCUSSION, OFFICER
THEN LEFT THE AREA. THE FOLLOWING DAY WHILE TRAVELING BY
TRAIN TO PEKING, OFFICER SAW A LARGE WALL POSTER IN HONAN
WHICH CALLED FOR THE "STRIKING-DOWN OF TUNG WAN-LI, A
STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER OF HONAN'S PROVINCIAL CCP COMMITTEE.
CROSS

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